Government modified it so as not to apply to alienations made to members of classes eligible for concessional registry. The restriction in the modified form has to be retained to prevent the members of the depressed classes being used as mere tools by speculative land-grabbers.

Ex-Soldiers. Land is also assigned on concessional terms to Travancoreans who had been recruited to the combatant ranks of the Indian Army during the War. The period for which the concession was first offered expired on the 24th November 1928; but it was subsequently extended to the 22nd October 1930. An extent of 2,214 acres has been ear-marked for registry to ex-service men. In 1104, registry was effected of an area of 464 acres.

Co-operation.

13. One of the most urgent problems confronting us in Travancore as in other parts of India is that of rural reconstruction. The rural population, the cultivators in the fields and the men and women engaged in cottage industries, constitute the backbone of the country. They are now encountering the competition of well-organised foreign producers and are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain their position. It has become necessary therefore to help them to organise themselves. Experience has shown that this can best be done by the spread and proper direction of co-operative work. In Travancore the spirit of co-operation has been caught by the people and it is a gratifying feature the co-operative movement here that the ryot and the small industialist have begun to appreciate its advantages. You will have seen om the Administration Report that there are 1,717 societies and you ll have been gratified to note that 219 of them are among the depressed asses. The majority of them, however, are credit societies which erely offer facilities to members for borrowing. Workers in the field f co-operation must recognise that their object should be to form ocieties that will help the agriculturist and the small industrialist to vail themselves of improved methods of work and more profitable ays of selling the products of their labour and to provide better ousing and sanitary conditions in congested villages. That public ttention has already been directed to this aspect of the question is lear from the proceedings of the All-Travancore Co-operative onference recently held at Quilon. The Government too have instructed the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to devote special attention to that side of the movement.

Joint Stock Companies.

14. The enthusiasm for company promotion noticed in 1103 continued in 1104, ninety-eight new companies being registered during the ear. The number is the highest on record since 1095 in which year 01 companies were registered. No less than 74 of the new companies ere banks. In spite of the large number of banks that now exist, here is a complaint that our agriculture and industries are not getting dequate banking facilities. This question is being investigated by the anking Enquiry Committee that has quite opportunely been formed cently.

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